

SUMMARY OF THE WEEK'S NEWS

Receiver Harman has announced that the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton and Pere Marquette railroads would be operated without change of management; the bonded debt of the system was alleged to be \$135,000,000.

Theater goers will be interested to know that the Court of Appeals at Albany has handed down a decision which upholds theater managers in their refusal to honor tickets sold by speculators on the sidewalks.

The Senate of France has adopted a bill for the separation of church and State. There were 283 votes with 181 in favor. No expression has as yet been made by the Vatican in regard to the situation.

COLUMBIA COUNTY.

The recent census returns of this county may well cause its citizens to congratulate themselves upon the existing conditions of prosperity, especially along agricultural lines, since there are over 1,000 farms; but the fact that nearly one-half of these are worked by negroes may militate against the county in many minds. On these farms 76,643 acres were tilled. Long cotton was a leading crop, but it would seem as if the fact that it took over four acres to make a bale, there were other crops, such as oats, for instance, that could be grown to greater profit and with far less labor, besides having a ready home market.

Has the north magnetic pole been found at last? At Seattle an incomplete message has been received from Captain Ronald Amundsen which would indicate such discovery. The message sent via Seattle was addressed to Nansen, the famous Norwegian explorer, who is at Christiania. The Amundsen party started from Greenland, and the message was sent from Eagle City, Alaska, which may mean that the long elusive northwest passage has been navigated for the first time.

The popular after-dinner speaker, United States Senator Chauncey M. Depew, has bid the Equitable Life Assurance Society good-bye—that is as a director, for President Paul Morton has the brief note of resignation of the former director. Rumor has had it that President John A. McCall of the New York Life Insurance Company will resign but Mr. McCall is reported to say in an interview that rumor, this particular one, is not true.

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In Wisconsin there will be a three-cornered fight for the Governor's chair as Governor LaFollette has announced, at Madison, that he will resign and become Senator.

In Russia there is no let up in the strenuousness of Premier Witte's task to control the critical situation which continues. While on an important mission to the Province of Saratoff, General Sakaroff was killed by a woman, who gained an admittance and then fired

three revolver shots at the general. At St. Petersburg fears are entertained that the revolutionists in that city will take this woman's act as an example to follow. Mutinies are not yet quelled in certain sections and in others new breaks are reported. Premier Witte still continues his negotiations with the Zemstvos and appeals are made to the people to have patience.

Advices from Constantinople say that it has been decided by the Porte to accept, in principle, the demands of the powers.

Admiral Togo is to come here with a fleet, that is on a friendly visit, and will also do the same honors to England. Minister Griscom, in San Francisco, says this statement is true.

As elsewhere in the State, the year was an off one for sweet potatoes; but the average fell off 50 per cent from that of 1903 for some reason. The sugar cane area was also light, the need of refineries being a leading reason, as the soil of the county is said to be of the very best for cane, and Florida syrup has a reputation for excellence all its own as against the other Southern States.

The "goober" is credited with over 8,000 acres, and is a profitable crop. It will no doubt be news to many that perhaps 100,000 acres of peanuts are planted each year, having a value of \$1 per bushel and a total value of one million dollars. Suwannee and Jackson Counties lead in this industry.

Comment on the hay crop was recently

made in these columns; the farmers are finding out, year by year, that, given proper attention, the native grasses are worthy of more care and attention than has been given them in the past.

The census enumerator mentions "four-legged hogs," so it would seem as if—within his knowledge—there were those in his county with a lesser number of legs; but we do not find them in his schedule of live stock.

In fruit the county does not make much of a showing; over a thousand abandoned pear orchards are reported, while the curculio and the worm have played havoc with the peach industry.

Five years ago the county had 1,200 more negroes than white people in it. This year shows a gratifying decrease of nearly one thousand of the negro

population. At the polls the white majority is sixty-seven.

As a farming county, Columbia has few superiors in the State. Soils capable of producing all crops grown that are not semi-tropical, throughout all its fruitful, undulating length and breadth, it is also excellently watered, either by bright running streams and bubbling springs of pure water or crystal lakes and lakelets. It may justly claim that all-important distinction—a well-watered section.

Its area in square miles of land surface is 792 or 506,880 acres of pine and hammock, almost wholly in the ownership of private individuals. The wild land ranges in price from \$3 to \$10 per acre.

THE SKELETON AT THE FEAST.

Miss Smith had permission to spend Sunday with her aunt. The Juniors were allowed many privileges.

Miss Smith's roommate accompanied her to the station. The envious Sophs who roomed above Miss Smith and Miss Robson commented on the unnecessary amount of luggage. Just as the two Juniors disappeared down the Evergreen path Miss Smith was seen to toss her suit case as she would a basket ball. Now a suit case is heavy at the best and if it is tossed one can feel sure of two things, the case is empty and the owner is light hearted.

The littlest Soph pondered long and seriously, then imparted the result of her pondering to the other five. This caused much giggling, borrowing of trunk straps and keys, and the purchasing of heavy picture wire and a big box of matches.

Monday morning the little Soph received a reprimand from the matron for being found trying to unlock the glass cases in the science room and later missed a class, while she hung around the bulletin board where Miss Smith had left four notes.

When the matron made her rounds at 10 o'clock, lights were out and all was quiet. A little later, on the second floor, Miss Smith was arranging candles around a hugh cake, while Miss Robson spread sandwiches and opened olives with an ease born of long experience.

At twelve the guests had arrived and the feast was well under way, when a tapping at the window attracted the feasters' attention. There on the veranda roof outside the open window, with sulphuric flames outlining its awful frame was a grinning skeleton.

Out the door they rushed, clinging together. Just at the head of the stairs Miss Smith recovered her wits. But it was, alas, too late. Back they hastened to a scene of disaster—the cake, the glory of the feast, had disappeared. In place of the skeleton at the window there were two very earthly-looking feet clad in gym "sneakers," while from outside came in muffled tones to the accompaniment of sickening bumps: "Pull me up you idiots, they're coming back."

Miss Smith reached the window too late for rescue, but to this day there hangs over her dressing table a small gym shoe, with broken laces, and brick dust on the toes.

HOLIDAY GIFTS

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